$\mathbf{z}$ Ш Ш Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 5

Joe Skubitz Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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2	DESCRIPTION				
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1	DESCRIBE THE PR	ESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL	L APPEARANCE	/	

The present Montgomery Ward store at 24 South Main in Fort Scott was originally the south part of a large business block known as the Union Block. The building to the north, presently the Ben Franklin store, was also part of the original Union Block, but the identical ornamental iron on its east front was recently removed and replaced with modern metal siding.

The Montgomery Ward store is a rectangular three-story commercial building in the Renaissance style which faces east. The building is approximately 40 feet wide and 120 feet from front to back. The top of the roof parapet is about 50 feet high. The walls are constructed of red brick laid in a running bond pattern. Stamped ornamental metal covers the east facade except for the first floor where a new front of glass, plastic, and metal has been installed. The roof is flat and is concealed behind the parapet. Window openings on the east front are rectangular. The window sills, jambs, and lintels are covered with ornamental metal. Enhancing the appearance of the cornice are two projecting arched panels on the east front. The windows on the brick south wall are paired in rectangular openings. These windows have stone sills. The lintels are arched on top and decoratively treated as are the stone columns separating the paired windows. An ornamental metal cornice terminates the south wall at the roof line. The windows in the west wall are very simply treated with brick sills and shallow arched brick lintels.

In addition to the changes to the east facade, there have been some alterations on the south; one set of paired windows has been bricked up, and what was apparently a side entrance at the southwest corner has been closed. The interior has been considerably altered, but the original staircase is still in use.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Calumbian	16th Century	18th Century	[] 20th Century
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REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chi	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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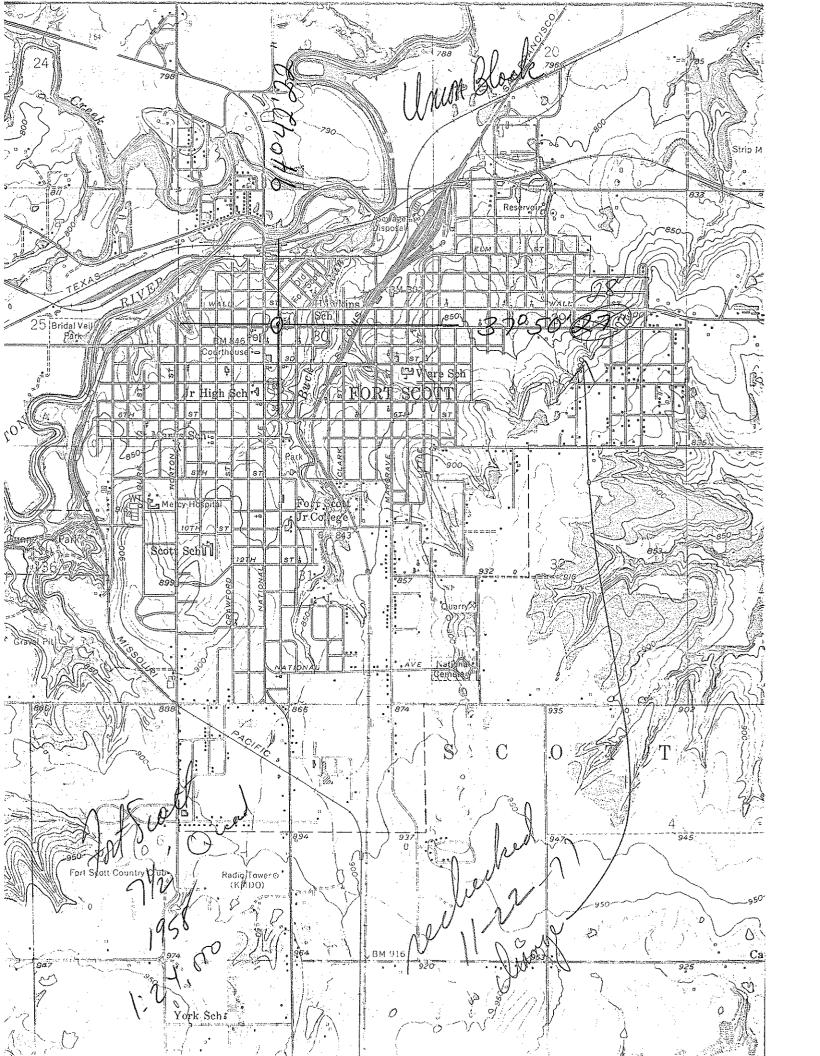
The Union Block in Fort Scott was erected in 1884 by several local merchants, each of whom built and owned his portion of the business block. The south part of the block, which is now the Montgomery Ward store, was built by Dr. J. E. Westervelt, a longtime Fort Scott businessman. When the building was erected, J. E. Westervelt and Company was a dry goods and carpet concern doing both a wholesale and a retail business. In late 1886 Westervelt sold the retail part of his operation to J. B. and R. O. White, who established the firm of White Brothers on the first floor of Westervelt's building. For a short time Westervelt retained the use of the second and third floors and the basement for his wholesale concern; however, within a year or so he had moved to a different location. By 1905 the firm of White Brothers had been succeeded by the White-Osbun Mercantile Company. In " 1930 the Cole Brothers Dry Goods Store was in the building, and by the late 1930's the Montgomery Ward store had been established in its present location.

The Union Block stands as evidence of the concern of 19th century Kansas businessmen for and their dedication to fine and lasting architecture. The Union Block is a well preserved example of Kansas urban commercial architecture designed in the Renaissance style as well as an outstanding example of the use of ornamental

metal.

Fort Fort	Scott City Direct 1891-1892, 1896-1 Scott Weekly Moni Scott Monitor, Ja Scott Daily Monit Scott Tribune, Ja	1897, 1898, 1tor, May 29 19 18 18 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	1905, , 188 86. 1, 1	1 4.	.930, 1				89-189	0,
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12. STA	TE LIAISON OFFICER C	ERTIFICATION		1	N	ATIONA	L REGIST	ER VERI	FICATIO	N
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set						certify ! Registe	that this p	roperty is	included	l in the
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  National [] State X   Local []					Chief	Office of	Archeolog	gy and His	storic Pre	eservation
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Dat	e December 29, 1	971		*	Date _					<i>i</i>

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES



Union Block

At Scott

BourbonCo

July 27, 1977

Ms. Mary Kendig City Clerk City Hall One East Third Fort Scott, Kansas 66701

Dear Ms. Kendig:

The Historic Sites Survey Office is seeking verification of the ownership of the olddUnion Block at 24 South Main (South 40 feet, lot 12, block 89). When the property was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, the owners were Benjamin Ordower, Rita Ordower, Lewis Taman and Cecelia Taman of Chicago. Are they still the owners of record? If not, we'd appreciate the name and address of the new owner. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard Pankratz Historic Sites Survey